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LETTER DATED 8 OCTOBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 8 October 1991 addressed to you by Mr. Ahmad Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 8 October 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you of the text of the irregular and dangerous statements made by the President of a State that occupies a permanent seat in the Security Council. On 4 October 1991, the President of the United States of America stated at a press conference that he wished to see Saddam Hussein out of power so that the United States could normalize its relations with the Iraqi people; that was his constant policy. He said that getting rid of him would be in the interest of the United States and that the embargo would continue, United Nations supervision over the marketing of Iraqi oil would continue, and no imports would be allowed except food and medicine for the Iraqi people.

These officially documented statements by the President of the United States of America conflict totally with the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. While the Charter affirms that the Security Council shall act in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, United States President George Bush continues to affirm his policy publicly in a way that conflicts with those purposes and disregards his country's obligations as a permanent member of the Security Council not to intervene in the internal affairs of a sovereign State Member of the United Nations, threatening the security, safety and independence of Iraq.

Article 2, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Charter provides that "nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State", and Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Charter provides for "friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples".

It is truly regrettable that silence should prevail in the face of these dangerous statements by the President of a great Power and permanent member of the Security Council. Silence about such policies, which are in open contradiction to the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, will have dire consequences for international peace and security, which form the core of the duties of the United Nations and the Security Council. Moreover, these policies which the President of the United States of America officially adopts and declares through the media constitute an extraordinary violation of Security Council resolutions, nay, contempt of the Council.

We must say that silence concerning this United States behaviour, which is being passed on through the channels of the international Organization, constitute a kind of tacit participation in it, unless the States members of the Council adopt clear positions on it.

Security Council resolution 687 (1991) did not give the right or the competence to any authority or country to intervene in the internal affairs of Iraq. Accordingly, the official position of the United States President clearly disregards not only the above-mentioned resolution but also other relevant resolutions and turns them into an instrument and means for implementing the suspect policy followed by the United States President.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq calls upon you and, through you, the other members of the Security Council to assume their responsibilities under the United Nations Charter and international law by rejecting the United States President's contemptuous disregard of all international covenants, laws and customs and the resolutions of the Security Council.

The President of the United States of America persists in intervening in the internal affairs of Iraq, in implementation of a suspect policy that seeks to subject Iraq and the Iraqi people to United States colonial tutelage, using to that end ways and means that in no way differ from the ways and means of starvation and genocide.

(Signed) Ahmad HUSSEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Baghdad, 8 October 1991

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